

Application No. 10/761,082

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 are rejected as being anticipated by Janssen. Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 over Malachowski in view of Janssen.

Claim 1 as here amended, from which the other claims are dependent, recites that the "control system caus[es] the roller pair to move a sheet in the *reverse direction* to receive a sticker from the sticker applicator, **and then** [moves] the sheet having the sticker thereon through the main nip in the *process direction*" (emphases added).

This momentary "backing up" of the sheet, so that the sticker can be placed on the *trailing edge* of the sheet relative to the process direction, is not disclosed by Janssen. Looking at the sequence of events in Figure 5-9 of Janssen, it is clear that a sheet 30a in Janssen *always* moves in *one* direction (right to left in the Figures) and is **at no time** "backed up" to receive a sticker on its trailing edge. Also, it is clear from the Figures that label 34 is placed on the "*leading edge portion 32*" of the moving sheet.

Malachowski shows a device for placing tapes 12a, 12b on the sides of a folded sheet 2, as shown in Figure 3B. The device 20 for applying the tapes, such as shown at Figure 4, is disposed along the *side* of a process direction in which the sheet 2 is moving: the basic direction of motion of sheet 2 is into or out of the page, and the tapes 12 are applied to the *sides* of a sheet 2 relative to its direction of motion. **At no time** is a sheet 2 "backed up," or reversed on its basic direction of motion, to receive a tape or sticker on its *trailing edge* along its direction of motion, as recited in claim 1 as amended.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that the roller pair in either Janssen or Malachowski "is operable to move ... in a process and a reverse direction." In Janssen, the rolls 130 and 132 are *never* shown rotating in a reverse direction throughout Figures 5-9. In Malachowski, the tapes are applied to the *side* of the sheet along a direction of motion. **There is no specific citation, such as a line number, in either reference that a sheet receiving a**

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sticker is ever "reversed" or "backed up" as recited in claim 1, so the art rejection is unsustainable.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that claim 1 does not recite the *structure*, as opposed to the function, of the claimed apparatus to distinguish it from the prior art. In the above Amendment to claim 1, it is now recited that the sticker applicator is *configured to place a sticker on a trail end of a sheet* relative to the process direction. This **structure** is neither disclosed nor suggested by the references: in Janssen, label 34 is placed on the "*leading edge portion 32*" of the moving sheet, and in Malachowski, the tapes are applied to the *sides* of a sheet relative to its direction of motion. The claimed structure is clearly different from that of the cited references.

Because neither reference, Malachowski nor Janssen, disclose *reversing the direction of motion* of the sheet so the sheet can receive a sticker *on the trail end thereof*, nor suggest why such reversing would be desirable, claim 1 and its dependent claims cannot be obvious in view of the references.

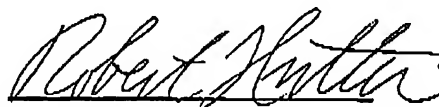
The claims are therefore in condition for allowance.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment; however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

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In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is hereby requested to call the undersigned attorney at (585) 423-3811, Rochester, NY.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert Hutter".

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